INTRODUCED BY: Baltimore County Medical Association

SUBJECT: Child Safety Seats – Public Education and Awareness

Whereas, Maryland has been a leader in legislating safety requirements for the use of seat belts and child safety seats; and

Whereas, Maryland enacted legislation in 2012 that strengthened Maryland’s child safety seat and seat belt laws; and

Whereas, Maryland law requires the use of child safety seats in accordance with child safety seat and manufacturers’ instructions; and

Whereas, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children be placed in rear-facing child safety seats until age 2; and

Whereas, rear-facing has been proven to be five times safer than forward-facing for infants and young toddlers; and

Whereas, manufacturers recognize the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations in their child safety seat instructions; and

Whereas, the public has not been educated on the importance of rear-facing restraint until age 2; and

Whereas, greater public awareness of the importance of rear-facing restraint until age 2 will save lives and reduce injury; therefore be it

Resolved, that MedChi shall support efforts to increase public education and awareness of the use of rear-facing child safety seats until age 2 and shall urge the State, local jurisdictions and other organizations involved with advancing transportation safety policy to make education of the public on the importance of rear-facing safety seat use a priority; and be it

Resolved, that MedChi’s AMA Delegation urge the AMA to support efforts to require manufacturers to include information about the importance of rear-facing safety seats until two years of age as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

As amended and adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 27, 2014.